

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

DEPT PASS USDEL SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SP

SUBJ: ROVIRA'S RESPONSE TO BASE NEGOTIATIONS

QUESTION RAISED IN REFTEL

REF: STATE 204779

1. WHILE SEEING ROVIRA AUGUST 28 ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, DCM RAISED WITH HIM QUESTIONS IN PARAS 4 AND 5 OF REFTEL. DCM'S CONVERSATION WITH ROVIRA WAS VIRTUALLY SIMULTANEOUS WITH THE AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CORTINA IN SAN SEBASTIAN REPORTED IN MADRID 6051. THEREFORE, CORTINA AND ROVIRA DID NOT HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO COORDINATE RESPONSES.

2. ROVIRA SAID THE FACILITY OPTIONS HAD NOT BEEN CONFIRMED AT THE GOVERNMENT LEVEL. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD BEEN INFORMED, BUT THERE HAD NOT BEEN TIME AT THE LA CORUNA MEETING FOR DISCUSSION. THE OPTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN AS A NEGOTIATING POSITION THAT HE HAD PUT FORWARD ON HIS OWN RESPONSIBILITY IN ORDER TO MOVE THE NEGOTIATIONS ALONG. HE HOPED THE UNITED STATES SIDE WOULD ADDRESS THEM AND BE PREPARED TO RESPOND SOON.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE DRAFT LANGUAGE ON EXTENSION, ROVIRA ALSO SAID THERE HAD NOT BEEN TIME FOR ITS PRESENTATION

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AND CONSIDERATION AT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING

AT LA CORUNA. THE LA CORUNA MEETING WAS SO OCCUPIED WITH OTHER ISSUES -- ESPECIALLY THE ANTI-TERRORIST LEGISLATION -- THAT VERY LITTLE TIME WAS DEVOTED TO THE NEGOTIATIONS EVEN THOUGH THE MEETING WENT ON UNTIL 10:00 IN THE EVENING. HE HIMSELF DID NOT APPEAR BEFORE THE COUNCIL. APPARENTLY THE ONLY THING THAT WAS DONE ON THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS THAT CORTINA BRIEFED THE COUNCIL ON WHAT HAD OCCURRED IN THE 9TH ROUND. ROVIRA SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HIS NEGOTIATING TEAM DID NOT AGREE WITH THE DRAFT LANGUAGE BECAUSE IT WAS CONTRARY TO ARTICLE 39. ROVIRA SAID HE BELIEVED THE EXTENSION ISSUE SHOULD BE RESOLVED BETWEEN CORTINA AND SECRETARY KISSINGER IF THEY MET BEFORE SEPTEMBER 25, IF NOT, IT COULD BE RESOLVED BY A SIMPLE EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES. (WHILE HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT WOULD BE IN THE DIPLOMATIC NOTES, HE CLEARLY INDICATED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY IN AN EXTENSION BY THIS MEANS TO PERMIT THE CONTINUATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. HERE HIS RESPONSE DIFFERED FROM THAT GIVEN SEPARATELY TO THE AMBASSADOR BY FOREIGN MINISTER CORTINA.)

4. IN THE FOREGOING CONTEXT THE QUESTIONS OF WHO WOULD MEET NEXT AND WHEN NATURALLY CAME UP. ROVIRA SAID THAT CORTINA RECALLED THAT HE AND THE SECRETARY HAD LEFT IT IN HELSINKI THAT THEY OUGHT TO GET TOGETHER SOON AFTER THE 9TH ROUND AND CORTINA WAS READY TO MEET AT ANY TIME. THE SOONER THE BETTER. ROVIRA HAD MENTIONED THIS TO ALBA. HOWEVER, ROVIRA RECOGNIZED THAT HE AND MCCLOSKEY HAD AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE BEST FOR THERE TO BE A 10TH NEGOTIATING ROUND BEFORE THE PRINCIPALS MET. HE WAS STILL OF THIS VIEW, OR THAT AT LEAST IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE A U.S. RESPONSE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS TO THE SPANISH POSITION BEFORE A CORTINA-KISSINGER MEETING. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE SPANISH POSITION SHOULD BE TREATED AS A WHOLE, INCLUDING THE PROPOSED THREE-YEAR TIME PERIOD FOR THE NEW AGREEMENT AND THE QUID AS WELL AS THE FACILITIES AND OTHER ELEMENTS. HE SAID HE AND HIS DELEGATION WERE DISPOSED TO COME TO WASHINGTON AT ANY TIME, THE SOONER THE BETTER, FOR A 10TH ROUND, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ROUND COULD BE A SUBSTANTIVE

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ONE (NOT LIKE THE 8TH ROUND, HE SAID).

5. THE DCM ASKED ROVIRA WHAT SPAIN HAD IN MIND WITH REGARD TO THE DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC ISSUES. ROVIRA AT FIRST SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW AND ASKED WHAT THE U.S. HAD IN MIND. THE DCM SAID THAT SO FAR AS HE KNEW, WE DID NOT PERCEIVE ECONOMIC ISSUES THAT WERE APPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSION IN THE CONTEXT OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS, OTHER

PERHAPS THAN PROCEDURES FOR ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS.
ROVIRA THEN SAID HE HAD READ BASSOLS' POSITION PAPER ON
ECONOMIC ISSUES AND WAS SOMEWHAT AT A LOSS HIMSELF TO
KNOW WHAT PROPERLY MIGHT BE DISCUSSED. HIS FEELING WAS
THAT SHOES AND OLIVES AND GENERALIZED PREFERENCES WERE
NOT APPROPRIATE ISSUES FOR THIS NEGOTIATION. THEY WERE
RELATIVELY MINOR MATTERS THAT HAD BEEN BLOWN UP OUT OF
PROPORTION AND SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN OTHER FORUMS.
THE EROVIRA DID NOT SAY, HOWEVER, THAT
SPAIN WOULD NOT PURSUE DISCUSSIONS OF ECONOMIC ISSUES
IN SOME WAY.
STABLER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USDEL SECRETARY.

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